

## Trustees' Annual Report

### Period: -

1<sup>st</sup> January, 2023 to 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2023

### Charity Name: -

Mill Road Baptist Church, Wellingborough

### Charity registration number: -

1188656

### Charity's principal address: -

Mill Road, Wellingborough, NN8 1PF

### Church contact details: -

Tel: 01933 276631 email: [admin@millroadbaptistwellingborough.com](mailto:admin@millroadbaptistwellingborough.com)

### Trustees: -

Duncan Wright (Minister)  
Rahila Isaac  
Arooj Cecil  
Shashi Patel  
Joby Pappu  
Ian Wilson  
Adam Peck resigned January, 2023

### Structure of the Charity: -

The organisation is a charitable incorporated organisation (CIO) which was registered on the 19<sup>th</sup> March, 2020 and is governed by the Constitution "registered 19/3/20 as amended on the 6<sup>th</sup> September, 2021" which established the objects and powers of the CIO. In the event of the CIO having to be wound up the Church Members are not required to contribute an amount.

Charity Trustees are selected from the Church Membership with the Minister being automatically appointed. A prospective Charity Trustee needs to have been a member for at least 1 year and (is in agreement to be considered) shall have their name submitted to the Church Membership and voted on at the appropriate meeting and normally serve for an initial period of 3 years. Existing Trustees can be reappointed after their initial term based in the Approved Governing Document (AGD) requirements. Once the selection process has been completed the Trustees and the Minister become the Leadership Team of the Church responsible for managing Church affairs under the authority of the Church Members' Meetings which are open to all but only Church Members can vote.

Trustee meetings were held monthly with the exception of May '23 with an average attendance of 85% during 2023. At the end of the year 6 Trustees remained with 1 resignation as above. Church



Members' Meetings were held 4 times during 2023 with the AGM included in the meeting of 4/6/23 when Church Members approved the 2022 Financial and Trustees' Reports.

**Purposes: -**

The principal purposes of the Church are the advancement of the Christian faith according to the principles of the Baptist denomination. The Church may also advance and carry out other charitable purposes in the United Kingdom and/or other parts of the world.

The Church Members/Leadership Team are committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship in person or online, through YouTube, in a welcoming, open and safe environment through Sunday worship, prayer, faith, bible study, music, Sunday School, table tennis and chess group, monthly breakfast get together and Friday Party night.

To accommodate the above activities the School Room has been used extensively due to the floor repair works needed in the main Church building and further information is provided on this topic under the "Achievements and Performance" section. Maintenance improvements to the Church and Manse have also been actioned and we remain aware of the future need to repair the School Room roof. During this time of not being able to occupy the main Church building health and safety matters were met as we responded to the challenge of using other parts of the premises for worship.

**Achievements and Performance: -**

Sunday worship has continued to be in person and online via YouTube throughout 2023. YouTube provides a media for worshippers who remain unsure about returning to Church in person due to their own circumstances. Bible Study groups continued to meet weekly via Zoom and in person. Our Minister also made available studies via YouTube on biblical topics to help people grow in faith and increase their understanding of the bible.

Friday Night Party for the local community and Church Members/regular attendees continues to grow with new families coming along to enjoy snacks, chats and various games/crafts for all ages. External community groups for adults with learning difficulties, Gilbert and Sullivan Society and a local amateur drama group continue to use our facilities. The Senior Thursday group have continued to meet socially during the year.

Overseas visitors from St. Vincent visited Wellingborough and worshipped with us during the summer. MRBC financially supported one of the local Churches when the volcano erupted on the island.

The floor damage insurance claim which was rejected in 2022 by the Loss Adjusters was progressed further by the Fabric Team. The external areas of the tower were repaired. CCTV camera drain surveys were conducted over a period of time and revealed where underground pipe cracks and a build up of silt were evident. Further meetings took place with the Loss Adjusters along with an exchange of emails and with the evidence shown they finally agreed to accept our claim and the insurance money was received in December, 2023. Prior to this the 'old' floor was uplifted in September '23 and needed time for drying out before the new floor could be laid. This work commenced in January '24.

We are also aware that the School Room roof will need repairs/replacing at some point and donations for this work have been received from the congregation. We continue to make



contributions to the building fund and are earning interest through the Baptist Union savings account.

Church Membership increased to 68 as a result of 11 new members and 7 resignations. One funeral was held for a long standing member of the congregation in October '23 and a wedding celebration took place in June '23. A baptismal and dedication service took place in April '23 and May '23 respectively.

Junior Church has continued to grow with 3 new members assisting with the teaching. Due to health reasons the Junior Church leader has taken time-off from the role. A small pool of Church Members continue to be involved in leading the Sunday Services. The monthly prayer meetings have continued throughout the year as have the breakfast get togethers. The provision of frozen food parcels to the community has also continued, albeit to a reduced level as the requests have reduced. The Music and Media Groups also have new members which has benefitted their groups and the whole Church.

During 2023 we continued to support the Daylight Centre with food donations and financial support to Somalia and Sudan through UK Christian organisations. BMS Home Mission and World Mission also received regular donations with 5% and 2.5% of offerings being donated respectively, plus an additional £100 per month to each organisation. Our Harvest thanksgiving donation was made to Barnabas and we also assisted with an appeal for financial assistance for an organisation in India. Both donations were provided through the UK.

The MRBC Fellowship fund has also received £100 per month to help with any challenges faced by individuals. This fund was used to assist a Romanian person to return home because of domestic issues. The fund also provided the means for a tutor to teach English to a small group from the congregation. In both circumstances Trustees' approval was given.

The survey relating to the Baptist Union (BU) proposed changes to the Ministerial Rules was circulated and approved by Church Members on 29/10/23 and forwarded to the BU. The initial discussions on the topic were aired at the 25/9/22 Church Meeting.

Changes to the structure of the Safeguarding organisation was approved at the Church Members' meeting of 29/10/23. The necessary changes were as a result of a new Designated Person Safeguarding (DPS) being appointed due to the resignation of the previous DPS. A Trustee remains responsible for the overall responsibility of Safeguarding supported by an experienced Church Member and the new DPS. There were no Safeguarding issues to report in 2023. Safeguarding training was also provided and our actions are always to promote a safer culture for children and adults. Safeguarding is at the heart of our Christian faith.

**Public benefit: -**

As a small charity below the Charities Act audit threshold this report focuses on the above Achievements and Performance section. Our main activities and who we try to help are described above. All our charitable activities focus on the advancement of the Christian faith, in accordance with the Baptist denomination and are undertaken to further our charitable purposes for the public benefit.

The Trustees explain the benefits that are evident from the the detailed explanations above which, in our opinion, satisfy the benefit and public aspects of the requirements.

**Finance: -**

The accounts have been prepared on a receipts and payments basis in accordance with S.41 (3) 3 of the Charities Act 1993.

FY2023 end, showed a net surplus of £36,145.78 and with the positive balance of £20,839.78 carried forward from FY2021 accounts the year ended with a current account balance of £56,985.56. In addition to the current account balance the deposit/savings account shows a positive balance of £12,484.23. **Please note that the current account balance includes the payment from Insurers of £35,610.84 in settling our floor insurance claim.**

Total income increased to £78,631.69 (+1.8%) compared to FY2022 **excluding** the above insurance payment. Deposit/savings account has increased by £4,403.38 (+54%) to £12,484.23. Total expenditure for the period was £78,096.75 which includes transfers to the savings account of £4,000. A legacy of £1,000 was received in October, 2023.

Repair costs of £9,938.54 to the drainage systems and roof repairs accounted for 47% of the premises costs. Premises costs were 225% higher in FY23 compared to FY22 with the above drainage/roof costs accounting for the majority of the increase. Energy costs increased by £3,345.42. MRBC giving to Baptists causes increased by £2,187.83.

The main sources of income in FY2023 were generated from Church Members' and regular attendees' offerings, rental income from the Manse and the claiming of gift aid. Offerings increased by 12.78% to £58,514.47 compared to FY2022. Manse income was 9.7% higher at £8,859.40. Gift Aid was reduced due to timing.

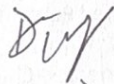
The Church's financial position remains that we are below the audit threshold and eligible for independent examination which was completed on 20/3/24 by Linda Freeman. The Church has 1 full time employee and ministry costs were £34.4k compared with £36.1k in previous year. Difference is due to pension changes.

**Declaration: -**

The Trustees declare that they have approved the Trustees' report for 2023

Signed on behalf of the Trustees: -

**Signature:**



**Full name:**

D E WRIGHT

**Position:**

Minister

**Date:**

01/08/2024



**MILL ROAD BAPTIST CHURCH, WELLINGBOROUGH****FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2023 (AND 31ST DECEMBER 2022)****GENERAL RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT**

	<b><u>RECEIPTS</u></b>	<b><u>2023</u></b>	<b><u>2022</u></b>
1 Offerings	£	58,514.47	£ 51,881.13
2 Use of premises	£	2,029.50	£ 1,376.00
3 Gifts & Donations	£	500.00	£ 300.00
4 Special Funds	£	39,645.84	£ 5,835.00
5 Manse Rent	£	8,859.40	£ 8,071.16
6 Sundries	£	362.69	£ 45.34
7 Gift Aid	£	4,330.63	£ 9,753.19
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Total	£	114,242.53	£ 77,261.82
	<b><u>PAYMENTS</u></b>		
8 Ministry	£	34,416.24	£ 36,065.36
9 Manses expenses and repairs	£	1,092.52	£ 1,480.70
10 Church premises expenses, repairs and renewals	£	20,987.65	£ 9,318.67
11 Church Utilities	£	6,912.64	£ 3,567.22
12 Baptist causes	£	7,108.23	£ 4,920.40
13 Special Funds	£	2,129.87	£ 2,675.34
14 Family Church	£	1,396.52	£ 286.58
15 Sundries	£	53.08	£ 87.44
16 To Deposit Account	£	4,000.00	£ 8,000.00
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Total	£	78,096.75	£ 66,401.71
Surplus/Defecit for the year	£	36,145.78	£ 10,860.11
Balance brought forward	£	20,839.78	£ 9,979.67
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Balance carried forward	£	56,985.56	£ 20,839.78

**DEPOSIT ACCOUNT**

Balance Brought Forward	£	8,080.85	£ -
Receipts	£	4,000.00	£ 8,000.00
Interest	£	403.38	£ 80.85
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Balance carried forward	£	12,484.23	£ 8,080.85

**STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES****12/31/2023****12/31/2022**

<b>17 Monetry Assets/Liabilities</b>			
Current Account	£	56,985.56	£ 20,839.78
Deposit Account	£	12,484.23	£ 8,080.85
<b>18 Non-monetary assets:</b>			
Held for church's own use (Church & Manse Insurance Values)	£	3,709,521.00	£ 3,625,481.00
External Liabilities	£	1,459.12	£ 155.00

**Report of the Independent Examiner to the Trustees of Mill Road Baptist**  
**Church Wellingborough**  
**On the accounts for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023**

**Respective responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner**

The Church's Trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The church's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act,
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act, and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

**Basis of independent examiner's statement**

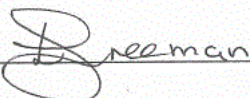
My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the church and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

**Independent examiner's statement**

In connection with my examination, no material matters have come to my attention which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records
- the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed by/on behalf of the Examiner  Date 20/03/24  
Name MRS. LINDA FREEMAN  
Address 7A KILBORN CLOSE  
WELLINGBOROUGH NN8 5YA